

MEETING NOTES FOR GYPSY MOTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

page 1

Present: Agness Schmidt, Alicia Wallace, Dick Gromaski, Kevin Rice, Dick Somolski and Pat Bilbrey

No quorum was present

Meeting Notes:

Alicia updated everyone on what we are seeing in the field. We had good die off in the spray blocks even the blocks sprayed with Gypcheck. She reported having seen pupation of both male and females this past week as well as evidence of some caterpillars having died from the fungus. There have been reports of large numbers of caterpillars being seen by home owners mainly in the northern townships i.e. Northern Garfield, Mt. Forest, Pinconning and Gibson.

This week we will be sending out perception surveys [required by the MDA] to one Bt treated block and one Gypcheck treated block. We will also be doing defoliation surveys in the same blocks. Although we are not seeing much defoliation in Bay county, Gladwin is seeing quite a bit in areas that were not sprayed this year. Both Gladwin and Roscommon counties expect to have larger acreage in the spray program next year.

Alicia handed out an up to date map of the current positive findings of the emerald ash borer. . She has tried to contact Deb Mc Cullough at MSU because they do now have a volatile and are testing a purple pvc-pipe trap but she has not been able to get a response. She is still looking at trees as people call in. The ones that Dick S. had asked her to check the homeowner had already cut down. The one ash still in the yard looked good. A lot of what she is seeing is clearwing moth damage. This moth larva feeds on the heartwood and makes round exit holes. Since it does not feed in the cambial layer the Bayer product does not affect it.

To date Alicia has presented EAB information to 5 township boards and has not heard from the others. She will be contacting them again as it may be that their agendas were just too full. Dick Gromaski suggested that it might be helpful to put an informational sheet in with the tax bill. He said that the stormwater authority had done this effectively. It is already too late to do this with the summer tax bill but we might think about doing it with the winter tax bill.

Alicia reported that MSU is going forward with research on the EAB. They are currently working on developing good traps and on possibly developing an effective spray using a spirochete.

Alicia also reported that the Asian longhorn beetle is rampant in the Toronto area. This insect attacks maple trees and specifically the heartwood doing major structural damage.

MEETING NOTES FOR GYPSY MOTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

page 2

We would normally be putting out Gypsy Moth traps in early July but we are having trouble getting a reliable pheromone. Should we bother with trapping if another source of pheromone cannot be found?

The counties budget package was just received this week and it has to be in by mid July. Usually she had it in early June and would ask for committee approval at this meeting. Would it be alright to get approval by e-mail?

A summary of what was covered will be sent to the members and a poll taken as to when the next meeting will be.

Next Meeting of the Gypsy Moth Advisory Committee:

Wednesday, November 29, 2006 @ 10:00 a.m.